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# Australian Orchid Review

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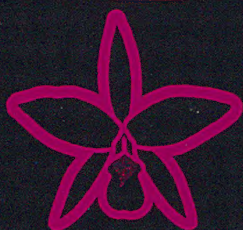
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## From the Editor's Desk

The 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Orchid Conference & Show is to be held in Perth, Western Australia from 11-16 September 2012. One of the international speakers at this conference will be Ivan Portilla from Ecuagenera who is an acknowledged expert on the native orchids of Ecuador. In this issue, Ivan gives us an introduction to the colourful and diverse native orchids of Ecuador. The images are superb, as you will see, with most of the subjects being photographed in the wild.

David Butler of Green Vista Orchids has been producing some of the finest *Sarcochilus* hybrids in Australia for the past two decades. He is widely regarded as being at the very forefront of breeding these wonderful Australian native monopodial orchids. Many of his quality seedlings have won prizes, championships and awards throughout Australia and New Zealand. In this issue, David discusses the important species and hybrids that are used in breeding, as well as some of the inheritable characters they pass on. We also have a photo gallery of some of the very latest seedlings that have flowered.

We also provide the latest breakthrough information regarding the importation of live *Phalaenopsis* plants from Taiwan to Australia, without the need for fumigation and three months quarantine. These plants, under strict controls, will be imported (generally by sea transport) in sphagnum moss medium, thereby reducing the obvious shock and losses previously experienced. The main benefit for the consumer/orchid enthusiast should be a much reduced cost of flowering *Phalaenopsis* in nurseries and florists. It will be interesting to observe how this develops over the coming months and years.

Alan Stephenson has written many articles for the AOR over the years, mostly on conservation issues and terrestrial orchids. I am pleased to announce that Alan has recently self-published his long awaited book on the *Orchid Species of the Shoalhaven*. It is a wonderful 68 page full colour book with well over 200 photographs of the native orchids of this region on the New South Wales South Coast. The colour reproductions are excellent, and it was printed by Blue Star Print. It is an absolute bargain at only \$A20.00 a copy. See the book review in this issue.

Next issue will have a report for the 8<sup>th</sup> International Orchid Spectacular 2011 recently held in Port Moresby. I was kindly invited to lecture and officiate as Head Judge at this event by Justin Tkatchenko, the President of the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea. I was able to bring back from PNG the last remaining copies of the now out-of-print *Spatulata Orchids of Papua New Guinea*, showcasing these spectacular Dendrobiums. See the AOR Mail Order Bookshop for more details.

It is with much sadness that I report the passing of Alick Dockrill at the grand age of 96. Alick was the ultimate gentleman and one of the true icons of Australian orchidology, having set the standard with his epic publication *Australian Indigenous Orchids*. That book, originally published in 1969, became the "bible" for students of our native epiphytic orchids. I had the great pleasure of hosting Alick in 1994, when he came to speak to the local native orchid society, and we became instant friends. The orchid genus *Dockrillia* was named in his honour, and personally yet another reason why I feel strongly about this name being endorsed.

David Banks  
Australian Orchid Review  
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OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2011  
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## Cover Shot

### *Sarcocylus* Velvet 'Nugget'

A fine example of this hybrid grown and remade by David Butler of Green Vista Orchids, NSW. Read David's illustrated article on the very latest developments in colourful *Sarcocylus* hybrids in this issue.

Photo: David Banks





# History of the Ecuadorian Orchids

by José (Pepe) and Ivan Portilla



Ecuador is a mega diverse country, geographically, and is located on the Equator. The Andes Mountains divide the country into East and West, presenting different altitudes ranging from sea level to elevations of 6310 metres above sea level. The cold Humboldt current coming from the south and the warm current of the Child of the North, joined the trade winds of the Amazon side, make Ecuador enjoy a varied climate ranging from warm, dry, warm humid, intermediate to cold baths fog. Undoubtedly these phenomena are those who favour the great diversity of ecosystems, giving rise to the different existing microclimates from the coast to the Andes and the Amazonia.



All these factors make Ecuador one of the richest countries in orchidaceous flora, it is estimated that worldwide there are about 26.000 species of orchids of which about 4500 has been recorded for Ecuador. More than 214 orchid genera occur in Ecuador, and of these 25% are endemic. We are sure that in the future, this number will increase significantly due to new discoveries within the orchid flora of Ecuador. Ecuador has been very fortunate in this area because many early botanists were interested in studying our orchid flora from America, visited our country and made valuable notes and collections.

In the 1790 Thaddäus Haenke famous explorer, on his trip to South America, by the Pacific Coast arrived to Guayaquil and then to Quito, doing during his journey the first documented collections of orchids in Ecuador, which was later published in 1827 by GB. Presl in *Reliquiae Haenkenae*.

In 1801 through early 1805 Alexander Von Humboldt and Aime Bonpland visited what was the Audience of Quito, discovering 20 species of orchids. Around the same time the manuscript *Flora of Guayaquil*, was published, with 260 colour illustrations, as a result of some specimens collected by Francisco José de Caldas in the Ecuadorian Andes from Tulcán to the Province of Loja, and for Juan Tafalla, a botanical Peruvian disciple of Ruiz and Pavon. After that, English physician William Jameson, who lived in Ecuador between 1822 and 1825 collected some species of orchids. Years later, Francis Hall and Theodore Hartweg made some discoveries in the province of Loja that were later sent to England to John Lindley, and through him to the Botanic Gardens of Kew.



Above: Thaddäus Haenke



Subsequently, fans and scholars of orchids, such as Joseph Warszewicz, Moritz Wagner, Benedict Roezl, Eduard, Franz Klaboch and Gustavo Wallis came to our country, in whose honour many orchids were named after.

Among other collections of orchids made by Friedrich C. Lehman mining engineer and German Consul in Popayan Colombia. Another important collection was carried out by the priest Luis Sodiroi between 1870 and 1908 - that served as study material for Reichenbach, Cogniaux and Schlechter. In 1901 Rimback came to Ecuador to the city of Cuenca and conducted a large study of the species in this region.

In the middle of the nineteenth and twentieth century's, contributions by Ecuadorian botanists to the study of the orchid flora, was conducted by people such as Luis Cordero, Marco Varea Quevedo, Augusto Martinez, Reinaldo Espinosa and Misael Acosta Solis.

In the years 1939 and 1940 the Swedes Gunnar Harling and Sparre Benkt made several trips in order to document all the flora of Ecuador, launching the work *Flora of Ecuador*.

Between 1957 and 1963 Calaway Dodson, Grady Frymirey and Leonard Thien collected about 2000 orchids as a result of the exploration around the country. From 1974 until recent

years, Carlyle Luer is especially dedicated to the study of the subtribe *Pleurothallidinae*, exceeding 5000 specimens.

In the 1950's the priest Angel Andreetta Salesian came to Ecuador. During his numerous journeys and hikes he became fascinated by the shapes and colours of the orchid plants that he found during his trips. This is what motivated him to start collecting what would be the most species for our country, especially in logged forests, becoming the pioneer in this activity. He was motivated to organise the Ecuadorian Orchid Society in Guayaquil in the 1960's, later the Associations of Cuenca, Loja and Quito. Members and enthusiasts arranged expeditions in order to find new species of orchids, among them are Roberto Estrada of Guayaquil, that made discoveries in the coastal region, Benigno Malo from Cuenca, who was collecting in the sierra region, Dennis Dalessandro in the Loja province and south of the country and Alex Hirtz travelled around the country collecting a wide variety of orchids previously unknown to science.

As a reward for the hard work of Andreetta, botanists have named several species of orchids in his honour, among its many findings we mention the following:

#### ◀ *Dracula andreettae*:

Found in the north part of the country, at altitudes of 2000 metres, growing in dense vegetation, in shady areas with high humidity.

#### ▼ *Masdevallia andreettaeana*:

Grows in the Eastern region in an intermediate climate at altitudes of 1800 metres.





► ***Phragmipedium andreettae*:**

Named in his honour by Franco Pupulin, occur on the banks of rivers require intermediate conditions grows at altitudes from 1000 to 1200 metres.

▼ ***Scuticaria salesiana*:**

Named in honour of the Salesian community presided by Father Andreetta. It was discovered in one of his many expeditions in the province of Morona Santiago, grows at intermediate conditions at altitudes from 800 to 1000 metres.





Later Jose Portilla became involved, showing a deep interest in the field of Orchidology in general. In 1992 he decided to create the company with the denomination Generos Ecuatorianos (Ecuagenera CIA. LTDA), which the Portilla brothers were founding members and, with Andreetta as his adviser, was the company that took steps to preserve the extensive Andreetta orchid collection. It has successfully served by the reproduction of species and creation of many hybrids that are carefully preserved to this day.

Dodson in Volume V of *Native Ecuadorian Orchids* tells the Ecuagenera contribution to the Ecuadorian Orchid as follows. "Jose Portilla president of Ecuagenera", supported by his wife Ingrid, his brother Ivan Portilla built small greenhouses in Gualaceo, Province of Azuay, they were devoted to reproduce the species in a modern laboratory owned by the company, where the orchids were reproduced in vitro in flasks, from which then took them out to the greenhouses and then were ready for sale. These were offered through colour photos published on the website. At the same time, Ivan and Jose travelled constantly for meetings and conferences around the world. The quality of the plants and the availability of identified species had never before created

such a demand. It is estimated that in Ecuagenera are cultivated more than 3000 species of the 4500 that occur in Ecuador. Today in this company it is possible to admire more than 3000 species and numerous hybrids reproduced.

Ecuagenera has played an important role in the conservation of many species of orchids for the future.

The orchids in our country have a wide distribution, they can be found growing from sea level to 4000 metres in altitude, with a wide range of adaptability in different habitats, they can grow warm and dry, warm and moist, cold with abundance of fog. They can grow as epiphytes (on trees), lithophytes (on rocks) and terrestrials (on the ground), enjoying an excellent light, ventilation and humidity according to species. For this reason among the most important cultural requirements are adequate ventilation, adequate light and balanced fertilisation. If grown indoors it is recommended to locate the plant near the windows to give a good light, if the environment is very dry, create a microclimate (relative humidity) by placing a container with stones and water under the pot, taking into account that roots do not be in direct contact with water.

## Warm and Dry Orchids

These species usually come from the coastal regions, growing at an altitude range from 0 to 800 metres, are exposed to abundant light, grow in dry vegetation, with excellent ventilation, in temperatures ranging from 18° to 36° C and a humidity of 40 to 60%. These plants must be grown in a warm and dry environment, with culture media that do not retain much moisture, we recommend the use of pine bark, coconut fibre, or moss mixed with volcanic rock.

### ► *Cattleya maxima*:

Located on the coast of Ecuador at altitudes of 200 metres above sea level, these species start flowering from November to December, the spikes can produce up to 30 flowers with a wide range of variation in colours, ranging from bright pink, pinkish to pure white.



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► *Schomburgkia splendida*:

This species can be found at altitudes of 600 metres, although it can tolerate cold temperatures at elevations up to 2400 metres. It grows on rocks as well as trees with high light; in summer the plants only receive water from the dew of the night.

▼ *Trichocentrum tigrinum*:

Grows in semi-desert areas exposed to intense light at an altitude of 400 metres above sea level.







### ◀ *Zelenkoa onusta*:

It is a species that grows in semi-desert areas exposed almost to the direct sunlight at altitudes of 400 metres above sea level.

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## Warm and humid growing Orchids

These orchids are from the Western Amazon region at altitudes ranging from 400 to 1000 metres above sea level, temperatures range between 16° to 30° humidity of approximately 60 to 90%. Some of these are exposed to sunlight while others live among the vegetation, as all orchids are accompanied by excellent ventilation. These plants should be grown in a warm and humid area, with growing media that retain moisture; we recommend using coconut chips mixed with *Sphagnum* moss.

### ► *Cyrtochilum pastazae*:

Found originally in the Pastaza province which the name comes from, grows at altitudes from 800 to 1400 metres above sea level, its flower spikes can reach well over a metre long with bright yellow flowers.



### ▲ *Huntleya meleagris*:

This is an epiphytic orchid that comes from the Amazon region, grows in primary forest as an epiphyte, at altitudes of 600 metres above sea level.





▲ *Lycomormium squalidum*:

It is found in the Amazon region, at altitudes of 800 metres above sea level, growing as an epiphyte or terrestrial.

▼ *Paphinia neudeckeri*:

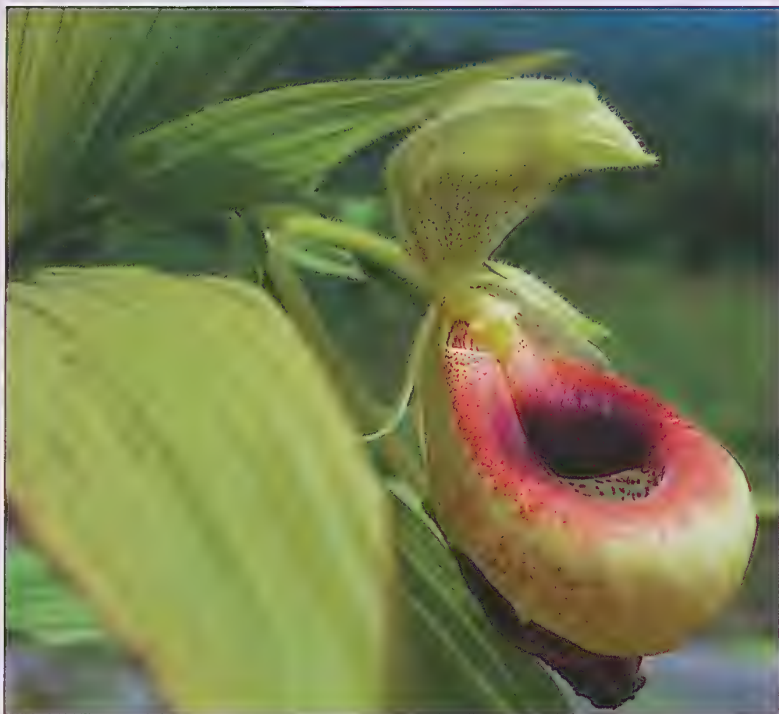
It grows in the Amazon side in Shadow Mountains at altitudes of 600 metres above sea level. Its inflorescence is pendent.





► ***Selenipedium aequinoctiale:***

In Ecuador it is found in the Western region only. It is a rare species as only one population is known; it is growing in clay soil in about 700 metres above sea level.



▼ ***Vanilla pompona:***

This is one of the primitive orchids of Ecuador, comes from the Amazon region, the growing habit is climbing like a vine on secondary forest, occur about 600 metres above sea level.





## Intermediate growing Orchids

These species are found growing in the foothills from the Amazon to the Andes and West part of the country, at altitudes ranging from 1000 to 1800 metres above sea level. It is these elevations which provide the greatest diversity of orchids. We can find *Elleanthus*, *Epidendrums*, *Masdevallias*, *Pleurothallis*, *Phragmipediums*, *Restrepias*, among others. The temperature ranges from 14° to 24° degrees. The relative humidity of 60 to 90%. Most plants of this group are exposed to bright sun light in the morning, and others are exposed to light filtered through the canopy of the forest. We recommend using a mixture of *Sphagnum* moss with volcanic rock.

### ► *Elleanthus myrosmatis*:

These species occurs in the western region, it can be found growing on the slopes between small trees and stunted vegetation, at altitudes of 1200 metres above sea level, is constantly visited by hummingbirds that feed on nectar in the flowers, and at the same time pollinate it. In the habitat it grows with high moisture and good light with constant presence of fog.

### ▼ *Epidendrum purum*:

Occurs in the Amazon region growing on trees that are found in the pastures, and requires to be grown with abundant light and good ventilation, also these species is growing on slopes between lichens and small vegetation, at altitudes of 1400 metres above sea level.



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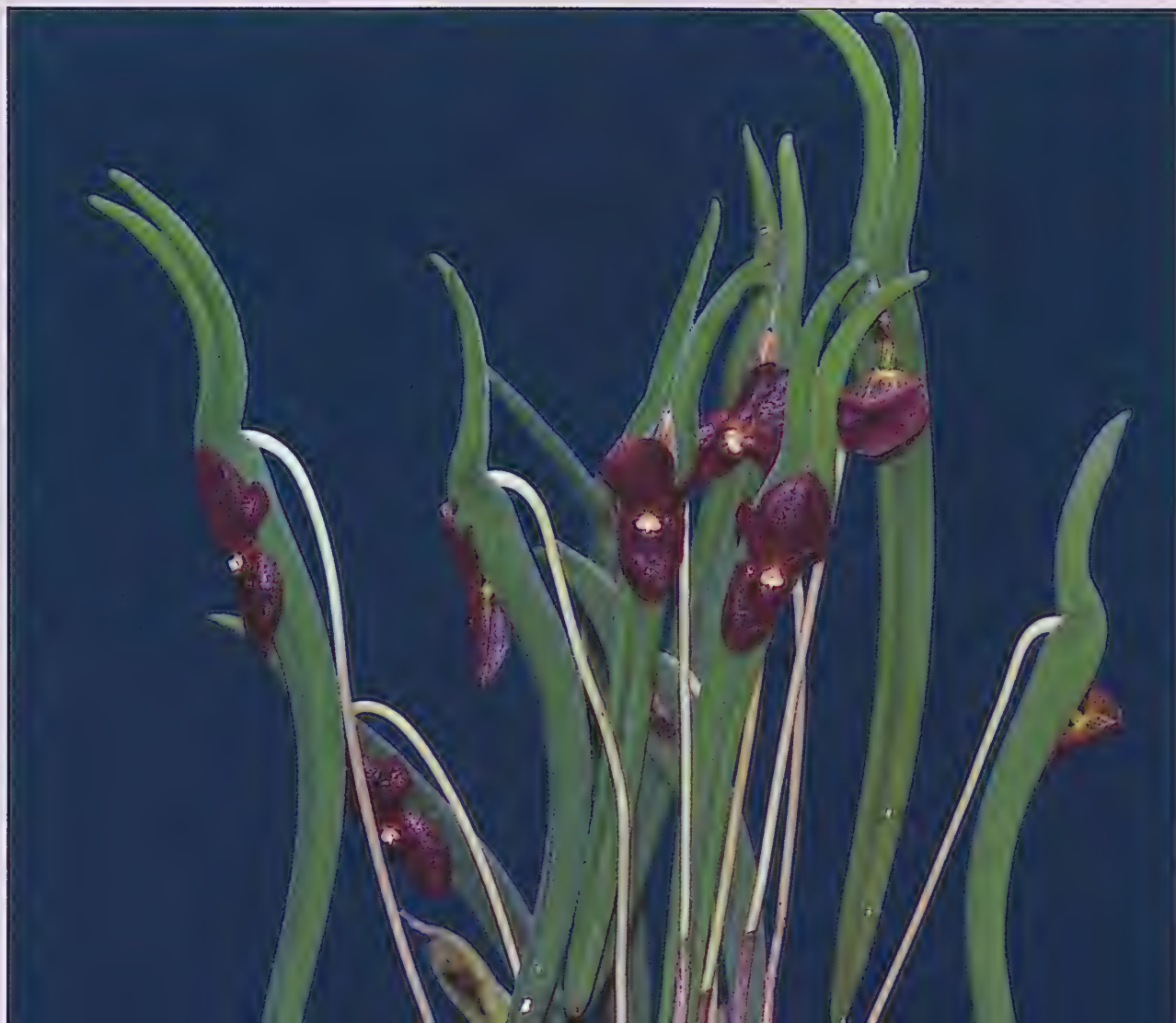


► ***Masdevallia decumana*:**

It is one of the orchids that occur in the Amazon region of our country, it is growing in primary vegetation on trees with abundant moisture generated by the presence of fog, require good ventilation and shade.

▼ ***Pleurothallis dilemma*:**

Occurs in the Amazon region growing on trees in primary mountains, enjoy good light and ventilation, however populations have been found growing on rocky slopes as terrestrials at altitudes from 1400 to 1700 metres above sea level.







▲ *Phragmipedium besseae*:

This species has a wide geographical distribution in our country, presents a wide variation in colours and shapes. Can be found growing in the foothills of the Amazon side toward the Andes, the best habitat for these orchids are the rocky slopes with high moisture, and sometimes are growing on the banks of the rivers, like to be bathed continuously by mists, rain or running water located on the same slope. Always located in places with excellent light and ventilation, at altitudes from 1200 to 1800 metres above sea level.

► *Restrepia condorensis*:

This species is found growing on trees surrounded by lichens and moss in shady and humid areas, provided by high humidity in and well ventilated environment, grows at altitudes of 1400 to 1700 metres above sea level.







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### **▲ *Sobralia yauaperyensis*:**

These species is native to eastern of Ecuador, grows on small slopes on bushy vegetation, is distinguished from other Sobralias by reddish coloration of leaves, also presents branches on its stem, which can be separated and planted. Direct sunlight in the morning accompanied by excellent ventilation at altitudes of 1000 metres above sea level.



## Cold Growing Orchids

They come mainly from the Andes mountain chain, grow from 1800 to 3000 metres above sea level of altitude, most of them grow in shady places, surrounded by lichen and moss, in dense vegetation in temperatures from 6° to 18° C with constant presence of mist that provides moisture, also are exposed to the presence of good air movement.

In cultivation, we recommend 60% light and 90% humidity, it is suggested to plant them in pots with *Sphagnum* moss mixed with pieces of volcanic rock according the size of the species. In order to retain moisture it is important to create humidity by placing containers of water around the growing area. Watering should be done whenever the media is dry, the best way to know if you need irrigation is raising the pot and by the weight we can note if it needs watering again. You can also poke your finger into the medium to test the moisture content.



### ▲ *Cyrtorchilus macranthum*:

It is typical species from the Andean region, where it grows in mountains with dense mist, at altitudes from 2400 to 2800 metres above sea level; its flower spikes can reach over a metre long with large and showy flowers.

### ◀ *Epidendrum bifalce*:

This species is found growing in the Andean region, growing among the shrubs, with abundant presence of fog, at altitudes of 2400 metres above sea level.



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◄ ***Fernandezia subliflora:***

Curiously, this species is growing together with another species in its genus, *Fernandezia ionanthera*, has plenty of ventilation and mist that create good moisture environment, is exposed to high light, occuring at altitudes of 2400 metres above sea level. The plants never get hot.

▼ ***Ida cinnabarina:***

These is one of the orchids that grow on the ground amongst with small vegetation. It produces flowers from November to January, also is exposed to sunlight, with high humidity, at altitudes of 2400 metres above sea level.







▲ *Masdevallia deformis*:

Found in moist and shady mountains with high humidity, at altitudes of 2400 metres above sea level.



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◀ ***Masdevallia rosea:***

Like most of Masdevallias are found in moist and shady areas, with plenty of fog, at altitudes from 2000 to 2800 metres above sea level.

▼ ***Maxillaria lehmannii:***

Many species of this genus are found growing on slopes and trees in humid mountains exposed to good light, at altitudes from 2000 to 2400 metres above sea level.







▲ ***Otoglossum brevifolium*:**

Grows in banks or in trees, sometimes exposed to sunlight, in humid mountains, at altitudes from 2000 to 2800 metres above sea level.



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Ivan is the owner of Ecuagenera, grower and exporter of South American orchids. Located in Cuenca, Ecuador at 2500 metres above sea level, their growing operation includes one of the largest selections of orchids available - including many cool-growing species. Their reserves consist of two huge tracts of high mountain jungle, one somewhat lower in elevation than the other - offering two distinctly different growing habitats. Their efforts with in situ orchid conservation has also blossomed into an eco-tourist business.

All photos taken by Pepe, Ivan and Alex Portilla plus Hugo Medina from Ecuagenera.

(Ivan Portilla is one of the main international speakers at the upcoming 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Orchid Conference & Show, being held in Perth, Western Australia from 11-16 September 2012).

**Pepe & Ivan Portilla**

**Ecuagenera**

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# A Bright Future for Australian *Sarcochilus* Hybrids

by David Butler (Green Vista Orchids)

An explosion of colour is occurring within the more recently-flowered *Sarcanthinae* hybrids so that, at springtime, "Sarc" benches resemble brightly adorned floral quilts displaying most colours of the rainbow. This bonanza of colour, thanks to breeding trends which feature parents such as *Sarcochilus* Velvet, is capable of becoming the norm for much of the year. It may seem a bit of a fantasy at present but up-to-date growers already regard it as normal to be greeted by at least a few showy flowers all year.

The achievement of bright new colours, along with out-of-season flowering is partly due to the presence of small epiphytic *Sarcochilus* species within the modern hybrids. Species such as the colourful *S. hirticalcar*, *S. dilatatus*, *S. weinthalii*, *S. spathulatus*, *S. serrulatus* and the closely related *Plectorrhiza tridentata* are among the more influential of these despite their apparent drawbacks such as small size, difficulty of culture, or reluctance to produce side growths.

In this article we will explore the contribution of *S. dilatatus* and *S. hirticalcar* to the development of today's hybrids and the special role that *S. Velvet* is playing in achieving our goal of being greeted by "Sarc" flowers throughout the entire year.

I have found *S. dilatatus* and *S. hirticalcar* to be particularly influential in the breeding of strong yellow/gold colours together with other lovely autumn shades. Seedlings from the one seed capsule can show an amazing range of these eye-catching colours. There are other reasons, however, to incorporate these two species in a breeding program not the least being their ability to impart large labellums to their progeny. This attribute can be evident over several generations thus giving much more balanced flowers, a characteristic not lost on learned judges.

## *Sarcochilus dilatatus*

One of the surprises has been the influence of *S. dilatatus*, a small epiphyte which often proves difficult in cultivation. The flowers can be missed at a glance due to the narrowness of the floral segments but close examination will reveal charming flowers in an array of autumn tones. A primary hybrid of *S. dilatatus* is *S. Aussie Dawn* (*dilatatus* x *hartmannii*) and the backcross to *S. hartmannii* in turn makes *S. First Light* (*Aussie Dawn* x *hartmannii*). Both these hybrids display attractive flowers in yellow and bronze shades and have formed a sound foundation for the further breeding of these colours. As shown later in the article this appears to be especially so when *S. Aussie Dawn* is combined with hybrids containing *S. hirticalcar*. Thereby linking the genes of both *S. dilatatus* and *S. hirticalcar*.







Above: *Sarcophilus* Aussie Dawn  
'DFB' full plant in bloom

Right: *Sarcophilus* Aussie Dawn  
'DFB'



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## *Sarcochilus hirticalcar*

If one small *Sarcochilus* has punched above its weight I believe it is *S. hirticalcar*. A small epiphyte, only discovered in 1966 and restricted to the McIlwraith Range in North Queensland, which has qualities proven to far outweigh its short-comings. It is sometimes known colloquially as the "Harlequin Orchid".

On the negative side *S. hirticalcar* has diminutive pale greeny-yellow flowers, often on small and short inflorescences. Flowering is successive with few flowers open at the same time, and with a raceme usually only about 40mm long the whole result is a bit short of spectacular.

It is on the positive side that *S. hirticalcar* shines. Flowers are long-lived, sturdy and open widely, the main pale colour is off-set by bold red-brown

in the centre of the flower, a colour which then carries up the sides of the floral segments. Several hybrids in strong red/purple and unfading yellow/gold colours have *S. hirticalcar* in their make-up. Examples are *S. Nicky* and *S. Riverdene*. In combination with *S. dilatatus* the palette of colours can be even richer, as exemplified in *S. Misty* (Aussie Dawn x *Riverdene*), *S. Galaxy* (*Misty* x *hartmannii*) and *S. Lara* (*Misty* x *Tin Yin Lara*).

A prominent feature of some small "Sarcs" is a disproportionately large labellum. In this regard *S. hirticalcar* is right up there in that the "huge" forward jutting lip is a most obvious part of the flower. As noted above, this feature continues through into *S. hirticalcar* hybrids. One aspect of the oft-used species *S. hartmannii* and *S. fitzgeraldii* is that, compared to overall flower size,

their labellums are rather small. The inclusion of *S. hirticalcar* in hybrids containing the former pair can result in a much more balanced flower. The larger than expected labellum in some modern hybrids is often the only direct evidence of the presence of a small-flowered ancestor. In this regard *S. Duno Nicky's Twin* is a fine example, *S. Nicky* (*fitzgeraldii* x *hirticalcar*) being one of its parents.

Flowering time for *S. hirticalcar* is mainly summer and autumn, periods of the year when few of the commonly grown "Sarcs" are in bloom and it is not unusual for a *S. hirticalcar* flower spike to remain in bloom for four or five months. When used in hybridising *S. hirticalcar* can extend the flowering time of the other parent or simply change the other's flowering time to match its own.



*Sarcochilus hirticalcar*





A case in point is *S. Velvet* which is capable of being in flower continuously throughout the entire year. Regarding flowering, it is also worth noting that hybrids with *S. hirticalcar* in their make-up are much less likely to attract botrytis.

A feature of *S. hirticalcar* is that flowers are produced progressively over a long period, although there are usually a few out together on the inflorescence at any one time. Therefore its hybrids often have, to some extent, this characteristic which some growers like (it extends duration of flowering) and others don't. This trait usually diminishes with each succeeding generation.

Left: *Sarcochilus Riverdene*

## *Sarcochilus Velvet*

Of all the autumn flowering *Sarcochilus* hybrids, *S. Velvet* is one of the most sought after and growers who have good Velvet's are reluctant to part with them. The plants do not readily form side-growths so they usually cannot be broken up and shared around.

The parents of *S. Velvet* are *S. Riverdene* and *S. Nicky* each of which has *S. hirticalcar* in its make-up. This double dose of *S. hirticalcar* contained in the Velvet's means that flowering time is usually late summer/early autumn, but may, as noted above, be any time throughout the year. Flowering is progressive with up to ten flowers open at first followed by fewer flowers open at the same time until flowering is finished. Racemes can be quite long by the time the last flower opens.

Plants of *S. Velvet*, even though they tend to have small *Vanda*-like growth, are reasonably compact and tidy. The thick white roots ramble widely and can be difficult to contain in a pot. Strongly epiphytic in nature the *S. hirticalcar* parentage no doubt influences root habit, and how the plants should be grown. When planted in a pot it is usual to use a very open free-draining potting

medium for *S. Velvet* otherwise roots may rot. Plants can also be mounted and this is the preferred method used by some growers. Where possible, my plants are hung or attached to the side of the bush-house to maximise air movement.

*S. Velvet* has now been used several times as a parent in hybridising. Many of the resulting offspring have flowered and been of high quality. Using *S. Velvet* as a parent can be a bit frustrating as some Velvets won't breed while others like to be the pollen parent or the pod parent but not both. It takes time to assess their individual whims and fancies. Plants such as *S. Velvet 'Cool Dude'* are of value because they breed readily in both directions and also produce worthwhile progeny.

To make plants of *S. Velvet* itself more readily available hybridists have crossed good Velvets together and have also carried out selfings of quality flowers. Obviously when *S. Velvet* is crossed with *S. Velvet* the result is still *S. Velvet*.

So why use *S. Velvet* in hybridising if the plant does not have a clumping habit, is a progressive flowerer, and can be a little demanding to grow? The main reasons are probably that it flowers throughout the year, produces lovely

colours in its progeny, and passes on its large labellum to its descendants. Less desirable traits can be overcome by combining *S. Velvet* with parents which are easy growers and which readily produce side-growths.







2010 *Sarcochilus*  
flowering season at  
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Above: *Sarcochilus Velvet*  
'Cool Dude' plant in bloom

Right: *Sarcochilus Velvet*  
'Ruby'



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***Sarcochilus* Velvet hybrids registered to date include:**

Bessie	(George Colthup x Velvet)
Bonanza	(Fitzhart x Velvet)
Cindy	(Elise x Velvet)
Candice	(Velvet x Cherie)
Fiesta	(Tin Yin Lara x Velvet)
Gadial	(Velvet x Topaz)
Jill	(Velvet x Fairy)
Kim	(Velvet x Highton Magic)
Layla	(Kellie x Velvet)
Marina Harriott	(ceciliae x Velvet)
Steels Creek	(Velvet x <i>australis</i> )
Velvet Dawn	(Aussie Dawn x Velvet)
Zyzy	(Velvet x <i>spathulatus</i> )

## ***Sarcochilus* Bessie**

The combination of the large white *S. George Colthup* and the coloured *S. Velvet* has resulted in an outstanding hybrid, several of which have been awarded. There are few modern "Sarc" collections which do not now have a plant or at least a few seedlings of *S. Bessie* somewhere in the growing area. Heavily textured shapely flowers are produced on robust plants which take quite happily to pot culture by using suitable well-drained growing medium.

The genetic make-up of *S. Bessie* consists of *S. hartmannii*, *S. hirticalcar*, *S. falcatus*, and *S. fitzgeraldii*, giving it a pretty good pedigree for future breeding. Such breeding is under way and seedlings using *S. Bessie* as one parent will flower this year and the results are eagerly awaited.

## ***Sarcochilus* Bonanza**

Another awarded hybrid which now flowers in many specialist collections, *S. Bonanza* has well-textured quality flowers in a wide colour range from white with red centre to solid reds and numerous interesting shades such as butterscotch in between. The colours of *S. Fitzhart* are many and varied and these are often reflected in the resulting *S. Bonanza*.

## ***Sarcochilus* Cindy and *Sarcochilus* Marina Harriott**

These are pretty, floriferous hybrids which have novelty rather than exhibition focus, but add value to a collection by making a delightful show at odd times of the year. Many will flower relatively soon after being deflasked.

## ***Sarcochilus* Fiesta**

The name was chosen to reflect the vibrant floral colours of this hybrid, the first to flower even sporting a large red labellum. It was given the name *S. Fiesta* 'Rudolph' and is a striking flower but reluctant parent so far, although it has produced a few seedlings when crossed with a yellow-centred *S. Snowhart*.

## ***Sarcochilus* Velvet Dawn**

These are really cute and come in a range of colours including strong gold. In the make-up of *S. Velvet Dawn* are *S. hartmannii*, *S. dilatatus*, *S. hirticalcar*, and *S. fitzgeraldii*, a top combination for further interesting breeding.

The above list shows the currently named hybrids that feature *S. Velvet* as one parent but others exist which are yet un-named and these too should have a bright future, both in breeding programs and on the show-bench.



***Sarcochilus* Misty  
'Spangles'**





**Sarcochilus Velvet Dawn**  
(2049)



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'Smartie'







*Sarcochilus Galaxy* '#1'



Above: *Sarcochilus Galaxy*  
'GL'



*Sarcochilus Galaxy* '#2'

Below: *Sarcochilus Galaxy*  
'Starburst'







*Sarcophilus* Lara  
'Jackpot' AD/AOC



## Culture

Reference has been made to the strongly epiphytic nature of the small-flowered species "Sarc", most being happiest when grown on a mount such as cork or hardwood, with a minimal amount of moss or other moisture retaining medium. Many of these parent species are twig epiphytes in the wild. Critical to success are correct humidity, air movement and temperatures, conditions hard to define and sometimes only understood by seeing the plants in their native habitat. Even then it can be difficult to assess why plants are common in one place but absent in a seemingly similar area nearby.

Hybrid "Sarc" also may be grown on a mount but pot culture is often much easier provided the hybrid is adaptable to both forms of culture. Problems can arise, however, when the hybrid *Sarcochilus* has inherited strongly epiphytic characteristics from its forebears. Seedlings out of the same seed pod can be quite different to each other in this regard but potted plants will soon let the grower know if they prefer to be mounted by putting their roots anywhere but down into the growing medium. Should the grower wish to persevere with potting the use of much coarser medium, net pots, or simply hanging the pot may work wonders.

## Finally

Part of the fascination in hybridising "Sarc" lies in seeking to extend the enjoyment of the rainbow in the bushhouse by developing new colours, improved flower shapes and plants that will bloom throughout the year. Seedlings of new crosses will flower each year to the delight of "Sarc" enthusiasts and the best of these may themselves become parents. The plants grow cool (yet take the heat of summer), need minimal space, and new seedlings are readily available - what an exciting future!

## Photographs

The photographs accompanying this article were kindly provided by Wayne Turville, Peter & Helen Jackson, Daryl Smith, Stuart Robinson, Grahame Leafberg, David Banks, Bill Kennewell and the author.

David Butler

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*Sarcochilus Elise*

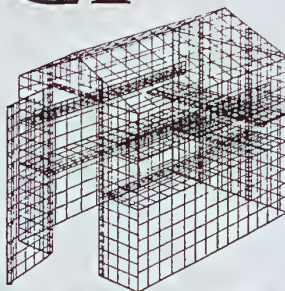




*Sarcochilus Cindy*  
'Cute Red'

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Below:  
*Sarcochilus Cindy*  
'SR'







*Sarcochilus* Daybreak  
'Splash'



*Sarcochilus* Bonanza  
'WT'



*Sarcochilus Bessie*  
'Ted'





*Sarcophilus* Bessie  
'Rhubarb'







Above: *Sarcochilus Bessie*  
'Polka Dots'

Right: *Sarcochilus Bessie*  
'Tapestry'

Below: *Sarcochilus Bessie*  
'Big Red Centre'





*Sarcochilus Fiesta*  
'Rudolph'



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Above:  
*Sarcochilus Dunoi*  
Nickys Twin  
'Eloise'

Right:  
*Sarcochilus* (Misty x  
Duno Nickys Twin)  
'Rich Red'  
(2563)







*Sarcocylus* (Misty x  
Duno Nickys Twin)  
'Harlequin'  
(2563)



*Sarcocylus* (Colonial  
Hart x Duno  
Nickys Twin)  
'Red Brown'  
(2590)



*Sarcocylus* (Dove x  
Duno Nickys Twin)  
'Nice Mauve'  
(2032)





**Left:**  
*Sarcochilus Suzette*  
as a mounted  
specimen

**Below:**  
*Sarcochilus (falcatius x hirticalcar)*



**Below:**  
*Sarcochilus Velvet*  
(grown by Bill Kennewell on hardwood inside a mesh pot,  
with very coarse medium)



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**Left:**  
***Sarcocylus Velvet***  
(grown by Bill Kennewell on guttergard "sandwich" filled with coconut fibre)

**Below left:**  
***Sarcocylus Galaxy* '#3'**  
(grown on virgin cork slab)

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# Phalaenopsis Orchids BLUES - A New Frontier

Text and photos by Dr. Graham McKay

It is very fortunate where a genus of orchids has new expanding frontiers of colour development. With hybrid *Phalaenopsis*, there are many frontiers such as Big Lip, Micro-miniatures, Multiflora Miniatures, Harlequins, Flared, Orange and Reds, Greens, Orange and Yellow Lip and now Blue Development. I have covered (or will cover) all these areas in future articles.

Blue *Phalaenopsis* is often thought of as the Blue or 'coerulea' forms of species, such as *Doritis pulcherrima* or *Phalaenopsis violacea*. However, much more development has been undertaken in the USA and Taiwan using these species and others to intensify the colour and create hybrids with improved size, flower count and form.

I don't intend to discuss the understanding of pigments that produce Blue colour other than to indicate that flavanoid pigments which are sugar based, water soluble and found in the vacuole of the cell are principally involved. They require a sub-group of co-pigments to intensify the Blue colour. A higher pH of the flower and temperature will influence the colour. The pH of the flower is under genetic control and difficult to manipulate (According to "Understanding the pigments that produce red": in *Phalaenopsis* p.21, Fall 2002. by John Miller).

The breeding directions being undertaken are interesting and a knowledge of these directions gives us a chance to access the likely success of hybrids we purchase. The chromosome ploidy of such crosses, whether they are within normal 2N or tetraploid 4N genetics will determine to a great extent whether hybrids can progress further in breeding. Some crosses will be made for effect and/or to prevent competitors progressing (by breeding 3N triploids).

**Direction of Breeding include:**

## BLUE SPECIES CLONES:

Blue species clones can be selected, by selfing selected forms as well as sibling and clonal crosses made to intensify the colour. *Doritis pulcherrima* var. *coerulea*, *Phalaenopsis violacea* 'Indigo' and *Phalaenopsis equestris* 'Cyanochilus' have been the principal species utilised. There is a small contribution from *Phalaenopsis lowii* 'Blue'. Perhaps more should be investigated with *Phalaenopsis lowii* as its progeny *Doritaenopsis* Siam Treasure (*Phalaenopsis lowii* x *Doritis pulcherrima*) has a good shape, colour and reasonable texture.

Colchicine treatment of Blue species clones has created tetraploid (4N) clones that now can be used in breeding with other tetraploid hybrids and tetraploid species to improve shape, form, flower count and size while at the same time allowing future progress with breeding fertility.

The principal breeding development being undertaken is *Phalaenopsis violacea* (H.P. Norton of Orchidview Nursery USA), *Doritis pulcherrima* and *Phalaenopsis violacea* (Mr Hung, Tying Shin Orchids, Taiwan) and *Phalaenopsis equestris* (Mr Chiu, Pony Orchids, Taiwan). Taiwan breeders have obtained clones of *Phalaenopsis violacea* 'Blue' off H.P. Norton and many nurseries in Taiwan include these and other blue species crosses in their breeding programs. It is interesting to note that University studies in Taiwan of *Phalaenopsis violacea* 'Blue' has found no blue pigment in the clones tested, according to Mr. Lin of Brother Orchids, Taiwan.

## COERULEA HYBRIDS:

Many Blue primary and secondary hybrids have been made, some well known ones include:

1. ***Phalaenopsis Equalacea*** (*equestris* x *violacea*)
2. ***Doritaenopsis Kenneth Schubert*** (*Phalaenopsis violacea* x *Doritis pulcherrima*)
3. ***Doritaenopsis Purple Martin*** (*Dtps.* Kenneth Schubert x *Phalaenopsis violacea*) I have obtained a tetraploid clone of this hybrid from Yaphon Orchids in Taiwan which should be useful to progress with further tetraploid breeding.
4. ***Doritaenopsis Siam Treasure*** (*Phalaenopsis lowii* x *Doritis pulcherrima*) This hybrid is difficult to breed with further, although its good form would be excellent if transferable. I have obtained limited plants of the clone used by Mr Hung, Tying Shin Orchids, in his breeding which appears more fertile. Many of Mr Hung's best hybrids have used this clone, namely: *Doritaenopsis* Peters Blue Sky (*Dtps.* Siam Treasure x *Doritis pulcherrima* 'Blue') and *Doritaenopsis* (Kenneth Schubert x Peters Blue Sky).



Left: *Doritaenopsis* Siam Treasure 'TSS006'





Above: *Doritaenopsis* (Kenneth Schubert x Peter Blue Sky)

Right: *Doritaenopsis* (Tying Shin Blue Jay x Kenneth Schubert)

#### ADVANCED COERULEA HYBRIDS:

Mr Hung, (Tying Shin Orchids) has made and/or registered a number of such crosses, namely:

*Doritaenopsis* Tying Shin Purple Lover (Purple Martin x Kenneth Schubert)

*Doritaenopsis* Tying Shin Blue Jay (*Dtps.* Purple Martin x *Doritis pulcherrima* 'Blue')

*Doritaenopsis* (Tying Shin Blue Jay x Kenneth Schubert)

*Doritaenopsis* Little Blue Bird (*Dtps.* Kenneth Schubert x *Doritis pulcherrima* 'Blue')

#### SHAPE IMPROVEMENT USING WHITE SPECIES and TETRAPLOID WHITES:

Most of such crosses result in reddish – pink clones. I did see a beautiful *Phalaenopsis* Harriettiae (*amabilis* x *violacea* 'Blue') a few years ago in Taiwan. It was a clear blue of perfect shape, although I have not seen any further breeding.

Most of the crosses made by Mr Hung with *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and tetraploid whites have also been flowering reddish pink. I suspect the flower pH of the resultant hybrid is incorrect and such clones will need to be line bred back to other tetraploid or 2N blue clones of species or hybrids. Overall this may result in better size and flower form. Time and further experimentation with breeding will tell.





#### OTHER NEW AVENUES:

New avenues are being tried in order to create better shape, increase size, substance and arrangement. Systems often utilise greens in the program and include:

1. Green (*Phalaenopsis* Yungho Gelblitz, *Phalaenopsis* Gelblieber with *Phalaenopsis* micholitzii parental background) x Light pink bluish hybrid to create a hybrid of better shape with green genes. If this hybrid is crossed with a dark blue (*Phalaenopsis* violacea) a clear blue of good form will be expected, according to Mr Chiu of Pony Orchids.
2. A green (with two doses of *Phalaenopsis* venosa or *Phalaenopsis* micholitzii) crossed to a dark blue will create a clear blue, according to Charlie Lo of the Orchid House Nursery.
3. Blushed pink harlequin with a blue edge or a light pink with a bluish blush crossed to a white may produce a blue colour, in the opinion of Mr Y. Wu of Leblio Nursery.

Right:  
*Phalaenopsis* Tsay's Evergreen  
'Nobby's Jade'



Below:  
*Phalaenopsis* "Nobby's Bluish Pink"





As you can see there are many directions being investigated, particularly by the Taiwanese. I would expect that many of the blushed pinks and bluish harlequins will introduce good form and size to the new blue hybrids. As with aromatic crosses, using fragrant species clones such as *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* and *Phalaenopsis amabilis*, the resulting hybrid needs to be used as the pod parent in order to transfer the qualities we aim to retain.

I hope this discussion on Blue Breeding directions demonstrates the wonderful ability of the *Phalaenopsis* to provide new adventures which can progress forward. The amazing ability to work with known tetraploid plants provides a certain progression in such breeding. Remember, it is still an unknown world for intergeneric blue crosses with plants such as the blue forms of *Rhynchostylis coelestis* and other closely related vandaceous species (and hybrids). The ploidy of such crosses and chromosome length compatibility etc. will obviously be important.

I have developed a collection with all these directions of Blue Breeding. I am unaware of any other collection or nursery in Australia with access to a collection that encompasses nearly all directions for *Phalaenopsis* breeding. GiGi Orchids draws on my private collection as a resource. I am also moving to dispose of my collection in the next few months. Hobbyists may contact GiGi Orchids to obtain a parcel of Blue Breeding clones and hybrids or, in fact, any other direction of *Phalaenopsis* breeding. I would construct the selection to reflect available clones and hybrids. Most of my private collection will become available during this period, including all awarded plants.

**Dr. Graham McKay**

**Australian Director**

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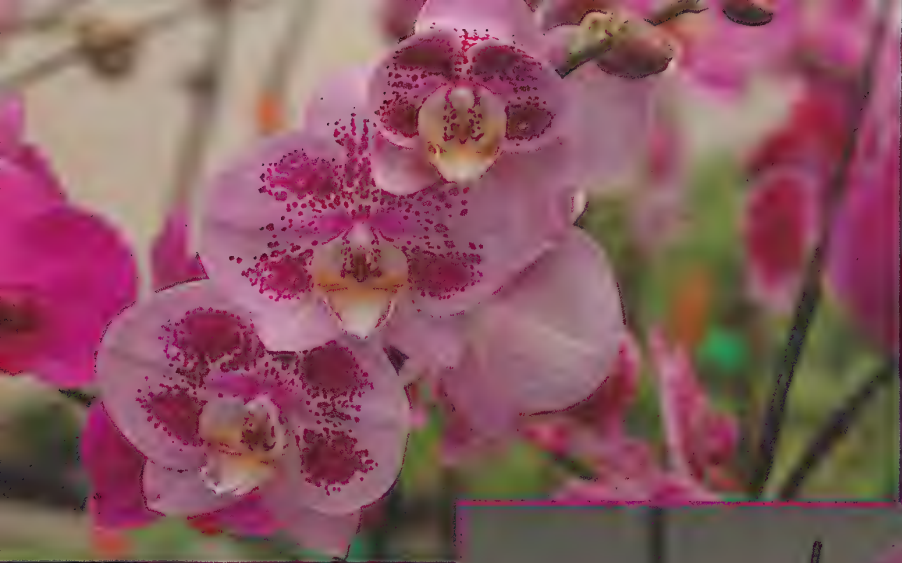
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*Phalaenopsis* "Lebio Bluish Edged Harlequin"







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*Phalaenopsis* "Lebio Bluish  
Shaded Harlequin"



Right:  
*Phalaenopsis* "Lebio Bluish  
Shaded Light Pink"



Left:  
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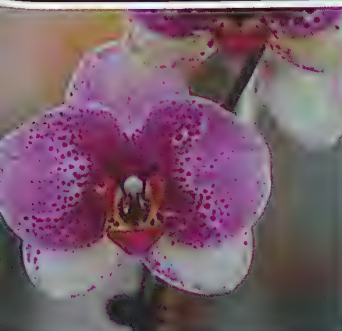
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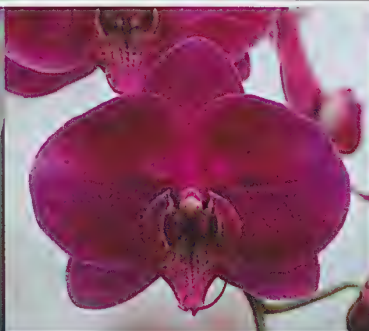
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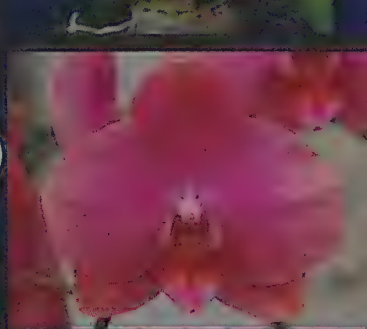
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# The Story of the Orchid Boom - The Hay Days

by Gordon Giles

The story started before the 1939/45 war. The orchid nurseries in England, sensing trouble ahead, and knowing they would not get a coal ration to heat their glasshouses (coke or coal was the fuel used) if there was a war, or if they received a ration they would have to use most of it to grow food, decided to send a number of their better plants to a few of their customers in Australia.

At that time there was a very limited number of orchid growers here, who while having some hybrids that originated in England, which was really the only source, also grew a number of Indian species. The latter were very cheap to buy, but unfortunately they were not all easy to grow. One that was imported in large numbers was *Dendrobium jamesianum* (today regarded by some authorities as falling within the variation of *D. infundibulum*). This had large white flowers that florists liked for weddings. The plants never seemed to last long.

Now as the cost of things seems to be the main interest in a boom, I have to quote in numbers that are relative to today's values. The generally accepted rate of converting 1950's pound (£) to 2011 dollars is between \$50.00 to \$70.00 to the pound. I have chosen and will quote the lower figure of \$50.00, and will bracket the present day dollar value.

During and just after the war, the American servicemen stationed in Sydney wanted orchid flowers to give to the ladies. My father (Leo Giles) had a few cattleyas and would get £1 (\$50.00) per flower. The florist we supplied said if the girls brought the flowers back the next day undamaged, he would repurchase them for £1 and sell them

again. I dread to think what the Americans were charged.

After the war there was a growing interest in cymbidiums. The people who had them were reluctant to sell. There was one man who had quite a few plants but would only sell back bulbs. Because no fertilisers were used a back bulb would often shoot two even three times. He had a very large plant of a clone called *Cym. Ceres* 'F.J. Hanbury' FCC/RHS. It had spidery brown/red flowers. I was at his home with my father when he was offered £200 (\$10,000). He

auctioned. It was a huge success and the prices amazed everyone.

We decided to build a larger more open glasshouse, so that we could continue with orchid auctions. This really started the boom, as there was now a market where people could deal. At the height of the auction business, we were selling on the Saturday up to £7000 (\$350,000.00) worth of plants, and it was nearly all taken as cash. There was a lot of black-marketing going on in the aftermath of the war. Unfortunately we only got our commission but it was still

very lucrative.

There were a number of orchid nurseries now operating. Carrington Deane operated Girrahween nursery. This was the most up-market and was famous for the different varieties of the grex Girrahween, of which *Cym. Girrahween* 'Enid' FCC/NSW was the most famous. This plant regularly sold for £100 (\$5000.00) per bulb. Indeed my father once sold one for £200 (\$10,000.00) to a man who apparently sold one that was wrong and had to replace it. The man was asked to select which bulb he wanted and then break the plant himself.

He did and the bulb came off with no roots. He said "oh well". I remember this well for at that time I did not think that anyone could be so casual about such a vast sum of money.

Carrington's brother Roy operated a nursery at Glenbrook on the Great Western Highway in the lower Blue Mountains, west of Sydney. His was not an up-market nursery like his brother's. At the time a summer bushfire swept up out of the gully and devastated his nursery. The plants survived though most had to be reduced to back bulbs. Labels at that time were made of celluloid



The "cattleya-like" flowers of *Dendrobium jamesianum* from India (plant & photo D. Banks)

refused to sell. My father later said to me "two fools just met, the one that offered and the one who refused".

At that time Bill Worth was the Editor of the *Australian Orchid Review*. He was a good friend of my father, and when he died suddenly, his wife was not in a very good position financially. He had a goodly number of orchids, mainly cymbidiums, which his wife did not want to keep. Nobody knew what the orchids were worth, so my father said he would auction them for her. We had just built a new glasshouse, so the plants were brought to Carlingford and





**Above:**  
**Cymbidium Ceres 'F.J. Hanbury' FCC/RHS**  
(photo courtesy Santa Barbara Orchid Estate)

**Left:**  
So much untapped potential in this block of modern *Cymbidium* hybrid seedlings grown at Keith Wallace Pty Ltd., Dural NSW

which of course burnt. For the next few years Roy Deane sold these plants as "Bushfire Specials". He said there was a plant of *Cym. Girrahween 'Enid'* and a couple of other very valuable plants, so you bought a lucky dip and could get a *Cym. Girrahween 'Enid'*. Many people thought that you would know where your most valuable plants were – apparently not.

The auctions continued. Refreshments were alternatively provided by the Rachael Foster Hospital and the Crippled Children's Association. We always donated a plant that was auctioned for them. The plant always sold for more than it was worth, and on numerous occasions the person who bought it would resubmit it as a gift to the charity. There was a lot of money about. With the plant and the money from the refreshments, the charities did very nicely.

At this time I was given a piece of a seedling that was called "Lucifer Dianne". I had admired it at the owner Pat Ready's home. It was brown and at the next flowering was granted an Award of Distinction. We naturally had to try to get a piece to auction. The owner said, and this I remember clearly, "you sell yours, you are young and the money will help you a lot more than it will me". As he insisted I do this, we sold the plant which was by now two small pieces. They sold for £80 each (\$4000.00). For someone saving to pay off a block of land it was a real windfall. (Mr. Ready said he was very happy for me). He was a good man who cared for other people.

There was a man who was importing watches. He used to run an advert on the back page of the *Sunday Herald*. Apparently there was a problem with the customs department and he needed money in a hurry. He had imported a plant called *Cym. Anthony Evans 'St. Melons'*. He approached us to see if we were interested in buying it. My father and I drove to his home and bought the plant along with two others. On the way home my father said to me "this cannot last" because the three plants on the back seat were worth more than the car we were in. The car was an almost new Chevrolet.

Doug Lancelly, who was a very keen enthusiast, flowered a plant of *Cym. Marion Lenfesty 'Splendens'*, which met all the requirements shape-wise and had a very good spike habit. The colour was a wispy-washy pale pink. It was winning all the shows and was thus in great demand. Doug had no intentions of selling. Gerald McCraith from Melbourne contacted us regarding buying a piece. We were to be the go-betweens and had no desire or intention of benefiting financially. Both parties were our good friends. As Doug was quite wealthy we suggested to Gerald that he should make his best offer first up, as we were not going to feel the matter out for him. He offered £1000 (\$50,000.00). Doug said "no". Some years later Doug died and the plant disappeared, never to be seen again. He gave us a flower to cross on the faithful *Cym. Balkis*. He was given whatever seedlings he wanted and the rest we quickly sold for £1 (\$50.00).

None of the progeny came to anything.

As always happens when there is a lot of money about, the villains arrived. We decided it was time to get out. We treasured our good name too much to be accidentally in anything at all dodgy.

What was happening was plants were being cut into even smaller pieces and at one of our last auction sales, we were given plants by a grower who we knew had the right clones, but he submitted false ones. I had done a part of my horticultural apprenticeship in a Rose nursery. There you had to be able to recognise many of the roses by their thorns. If a wrongly labelled one was brought to the packing shed it could be recognised and put to one side. As the actual number of *Cymbidium* hybrid clones that was being traded was fairly low I found it quite easy to recognise them by their bulb and foliage. Some of the people who continued to run auctions got into trouble.

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**Above:** The vastly improved modern *Cymbidium* hybrids do not generate a tiny fraction of the price as their rarer predecessors, as they are more readily available due to mericlone as well as improved and reliable breeding lines. Here is a selection of colourful Gordon Giles hybrids at Keith Wallace Pty Ltd. (photo: D. Banks)

We even had a case of what is now called 'money laundering'. A man who we knew well, also well-known in the Banking system, asked us would we mind a plant till the next auction. We said yes. Next thing we were served with a legal notice that said we were the receivers of stolen goods. Apparently someone had asked the banking man to wash £1000 (\$50,000.00). The idea was to buy an orchid in England, bring it to Australia, sell it and the money was clean. We were devastated. We treasured our reputation for honesty. After some legal manoeuvres the plant was returned to the owner. The plant was called 'Starlight Crown'. It was a pale apple green that faded after a couple of weeks. This may sound like a Damon Runyon story but I can assure that it is true.

There were villains away from the auction scene as well. I will not mention names as there may be descendants, whom I am sure, would not like to be thus associated.

Apart from putting the wrong names on the plants, one method was to put two plants in the one pot. There was a man (no women involved) who built fancy show cases with glass sides where you could look but not touch. You chose, he took the plant away, removed a piece. You could not have the flowering piece, it was needed for the next pigeon, and of course your plant was wrong. If he thought that you were wealthy enough, you would be invited to tea, wined and dined (as men of class do), or so he said, and then the pigeon was plucked.

At the Dos Pueblos nursery at Dee Why the plants were grown in the ground. People would mark a plant and then come back when it was no longer in flower and buy it at a much cheaper price. It didn't matter though as the plants never flowered as well again as they did when grown in the ground. The Company had selected a site with deep black sand. They added a large quantity of peat moss and some sheep manure,

which was blended into the sand. They were the best grown plants that had been seen at the time.

One man used to sell plants in Paddy's Market, using the flowering plants as the lure, and saying that the pieces under the bench were the same. I once asked him if he ever had complaints. He said rarely as most people were either embarrassed to have been taken or could not be bothered. To the ones that did complain he gave them another piece with an apology. He said you then had another couple of years before they flowered the plant, and then they just gave up.

The Orchid Society of New South Wales met at the YWCA building in Oxford St. It was said that there was more business transacted in the lobby than in most nurseries. The hall was always packed; if you were late you ended up in the balcony that was usually full as well.



The first Show that was held in the Sydney Town Hall was underwritten by my father. He was an astute businessman and saw the potential of the Show being held in a prominent site. It was a huge success, as he foresaw, and he did not have to put up any money. The Town Hall shows really put Orchids on the map and helped the OSNSW become financially secure – a position it certainly still enjoys today.

There were lots of interesting people involved, and the displays were magnificent. We had a heated glasshouse that was used to grow tropical foliage to

compliment our displays. The Town Hall was full of flowers and packed with viewers for the entire duration of each show. Even here tricks were played. A yellow cymbidium called *Cym. Cariga 'Sorento'* was exhibited with an orange spot light on it. It looked magnificent and was sold for £600 (\$30,000.00). It was a different colour in daylight and was possibly not even a *Cariga*. Names were sometimes changed so people would not know where to go to get similar clones.

However as with all good things the boom had to bust. In France a Dr. Morel

was able to tissue culture cymbidiums. At first many people did not believe it possible or that it was doable and the plants would not come true to type. Of course they did.

A gentleman, Bob Van Dyke, started mericlone in Sydney and that was the beginning of the end of the orchid boom. It had been an interesting time and had been good fun.

Gordon Giles

Keith Wallace Pty Ltd

Dural, NSW

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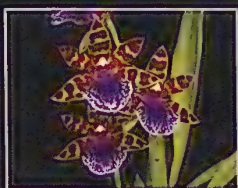


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# New Orchid Society in East New Britain - Papua New Guinea

by Justin Tkatchenko



**Above:** Mrs Arns, President of the Orchid Society of PNG  
Mr Justin W Tkatchenko  
& Lady Kaludia

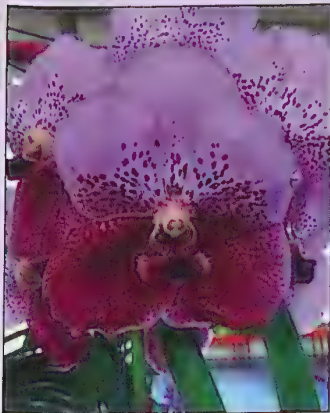
The people of East New Britain are MAD orchid lovers. This new provincial Orchid Society of East New Britain, was founded in 2010, is a branch of the parent body, the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea, which is based in Port Moresby.

They had their first orchid show and display early in September 2011 with over one thousand local people visiting the show and buying over 3000 orchids in flower (at subsidised prices) for their personal collections and to incorporate into their gardens.

The Grand Champion of the Show went to a strap-leaf *Vanda sanderiana* hybrid with two beautiful spikes in full bloom with large shapely and colourful flowers, grown by the President of the Orchid Society of East New Britain, Mrs Arns. The Reserve Champion of the Show was won by *Dendrobium* Candy Stripe grown by Mrs Mary Manihi.

Overall the show was an overwhelming success for the new branch of the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea and the East New Britain sub-branch.

Justin W Tkatchenko OL BEM  
Port Moresby, PNG  
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**Left:** *Vanda sanderiana* Hybrid  
- Grand Champion

**Below:** *Dendrobium* Candy Stripe - Reserve Champion



**Left:** Lady Kaludia and Mrs Mary Manihi with the Reserve Champion Orchid



**Above:** President of the Orchid Society of East New Britain, Mrs Arns, Lady Kaludia and Governor General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Paulius Matane





# Phalaenopsis Orchids imported into Australia without Quarantine

**A**fter more than four years of negotiations with Australia, the first shipment of Taiwan *Phalaenopsis* orchids with growing media passed Australian customs clearance procedures on September 13, 2011 after breaking through quarantine and inspection barriers.

The orchids were on display at Flora International in Leppington, New South Wales and a press conference was jointly presided over by International Department Director General Su-San Chang of the Council of Agriculture (COA), Economic Division Executive Director Guann-Jyh Lee of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia, and Flora International General Manager Denis Secco. Mr. Chris Patterson, Councillor of Camden City Council, delivered his welcome speech, and Mr. Ross Maddock, Chairman of the Australia-Taiwan Business Council, Johnson Hsiung,

President of the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce in Australia, Frank Chen, Director of Taiwan Trade Centre Sydney, the Honorary President Alan Hu of the Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce in Oceania and other guests were invited to witness the strength of Taiwan's quality agriculture and attend a celebration tea party after the press conference.

## ***Phalaenopsis* Orchids Becoming Popular on International Market with Exports Growing Three Times in Six Years**

The COA explained that using sphagnum moss as the growing media, in combination with mature post-harvested handling techniques for long-distance shipping, Taiwan's *Phalaenopsis* orchids can endure maritime container transport for more than 25 days and have strong resilience and vitality after arriving at destination's greenhouse. And this method of



exporting orchids has been highly praised by domestic businesses and their partners overseas. Since the first shipment of *Phalaenopsis* orchids with growing media was exported to the United States in January 2005, the total value of exported Taiwan *Phalaenopsis* orchids with medium had increased from US\$27.05 million in 2005 to US\$82.55 million in 2010, growing more three times in six years. In 2010 Taiwan exported more than 14 million plants of *Phalaenopsis* orchids to the United States market through long-distance shipping, and it was estimated to save domestic businesses and their overseas partners at least NT\$600 million in transportation costs.

#### ***Phalaenopsis* Orchids Export to Australia Successfully after Breaking through Strict Quarantine and Inspection Barriers**

In the past Australia required that *Phalaenopsis* orchid seedlings being exported to Australia had to remove their medium and be applied with pesticides, and the orchids must undergo

3-month quarantine in isolation after reaching Australia, noted the Council. To assist local businesses in breaking through the strict quarantine and inspection barriers, the government, based on the work plan for importation of *Phalaenopsis* orchids with growing media from Taiwan to the United States, has negotiated with Australia more than four years ago. Australia gave its consent finally on January 6, 2011 for Taiwan to become the first foreign country allowed to export *Phalaenopsis* orchids with growing media to Australia without 3-month quarantine in isolation. The first shipment of 2,200 mature seedlings of four commercial varieties of *Phalaenopsis* orchid developed in Taiwan was transported to Australia with growing media and passed customs clearance procedures smoothly on September 13. *Phalaenopsis* orchids with medium can not only increase the survival rate from 50% for exported orchids with bare roots to 95%, but also shorten the rehabilitation period from two months for bare-root orchids to three weeks, enabling them to enter the

local market much sooner. Moreover, local businesses can replace air transport with shipping when exporting orchids, substantially saving both transportation and sales operation costs for Australian orchid growers. This development has created a win-win situation for Taiwan and Australian orchid business.

#### **To Actively Protect Plant Variety Rights, Taiwan Negotiate with Various Nations to Ensure Intellectual Property of Orchid Breeders**

Taiwan has rich experiences in breeding and developed 200-300 new orchid varieties each year. To endure Taiwan's orchid variety R&D superiority and make good use of added value of intellectual property rights, Taiwan has actively negotiated with various nations for accepting applications for plant variety right filed by each other's natural or legal persons under the WTO/TRIPS framework. Taiwan breeders are now entitled to apply for plant variety rights in the United States, Australia, Japan and European Union, and now Taiwan is actively negotiating with Canada and







Israel for the same arrangement. As of the end of August 2011, European Union has granted 44 *Phalaenopsis* and *Doritaenopsis* orchid variety rights filed by Taiwan businesses, while another 18 application was under procedure of examination. Japan has approved 14 applications and proclaimed nine, and the United States has approved 12 applications, according to Taiwan Orchid Growers Association statistics, protecting plant variety rights has been positive for orchid breeders and seedlings nurseries in Taiwan and overseas growers to form strategic partnerships in a sustainable manner, noted the COA.

**Australia and New Zealand Agree to Import Orchids with Growing Media Expands Business Opportunity for Export of Taiwan Orchids to Southern Hemisphere**

In order to continue creating export successes, the Council has in recent years actively negotiated with countries of other targeted market through various channels for acceptance of exported Taiwan *Phalaenopsis* orchids with growing media, said the COA. Australia gave its consent in January this year and New Zealand consented in August,



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demonstrating that Taiwanese *Phalaenopsis* orchids have been given recognition by the international market and that *Phalaenopsis* orchid exports are expected to reach a new record-high.

To continue keeping Taiwan flower industry ahead of global trends, in the future the Taiwan government will enhance local flower industry's competitiveness from such aspects as "international brand marketing," "healthy seedling and high-tech production" and "innovation and intellectual property right protection," and work closely with the industry to develop different types of profitable business modes while expanding business opportunities globally, particularly in the southern hemisphere.

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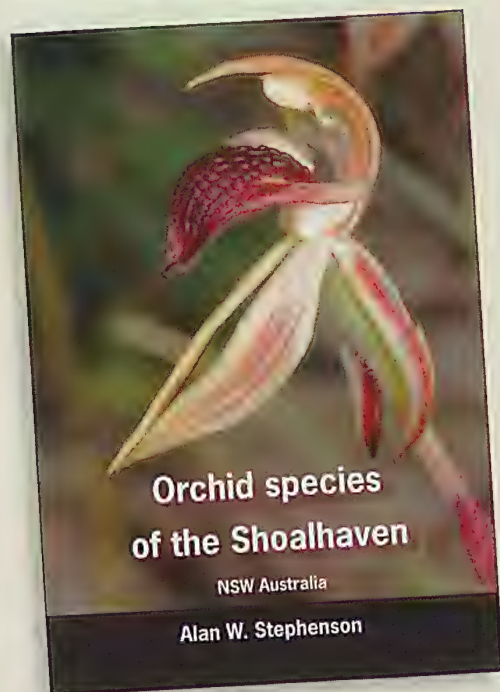
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This is followed by the main section of the book that alphabetically lists and discusses each species, with information such as Common Names, Recent Synonyms, Flowering Time in the wild, plus a brief description of the plant, flowers and preferred habitat.

The most recent taxonomic treatment has been followed here, as used by the National Herbarium in Canberra. For this reason, some scientific generic names may be unfamiliar with readers; however both sets of names are included in the index for quick cross-referencing.

A number of unusual and scarce colour forms have also been included in the images to show both the diversity that may be encountered, and to also expect the unexpected! There are also chapters on Orchid Conservation and Fire Resilience.

This is a wonderful field guide that will aid even the most novice naturalist or native orchid enthusiast and confidently assist them in identifying examples they encounter in the field. At only \$20.00 a copy it represents excellent value, as it also covers many species found naturally along the East Coast of New South Wales. The book is available direct from Alan Stephenson, 43 McKay St. Nowra NSW 2541, plus \$2.50 per copy for postage. Alan can be contacted by email at [affine@tpg.com.au](mailto:affine@tpg.com.au).

David Banks

Email: [david@hillsdistrictorchids.com](mailto:david@hillsdistrictorchids.com)

Alan Stephenson lives in Nowra and is well placed to give the first botanical treatment of the native orchids of the Shoalhaven region. He is heavily involved in conservation strategies to protect our native flora through his position as Conservation Officer/Director for both the Australian Orchid Council (AOC) and the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS). Alan is also currently President of ANOS Illawarra Group.

I have known Alan for close to 25 years, and he has always had a very keen interest, and eye, for the indigenous orchids of his local area. He has extended the distribution ranges of a number of uncommon and rare species, as well as new taxa that remain undescribed at present. Some of his more significant botanical finds include the Eastern Underground Orchid *Rhizanthella slateri*, as well as numerous greenhoods, beard orchids and tree spider orchids.

This 68 page book is packed with both information and superb photography, almost exclusively taken by the author. All of the recorded orchid species native to the region are included and illustrated. If it's not in the book, Alan (and the National Herbarium) doesn't know about it! The quality of the printing and colour reproductions are sparking, which comes as no surprise as Alan employed the same printers that produce the AOR.

The introductory chapters discuss the area covered by this book, the structure of the orchid plants, their natural habitats, parts of an orchid flower, orchid structure and the pollination of orchids.

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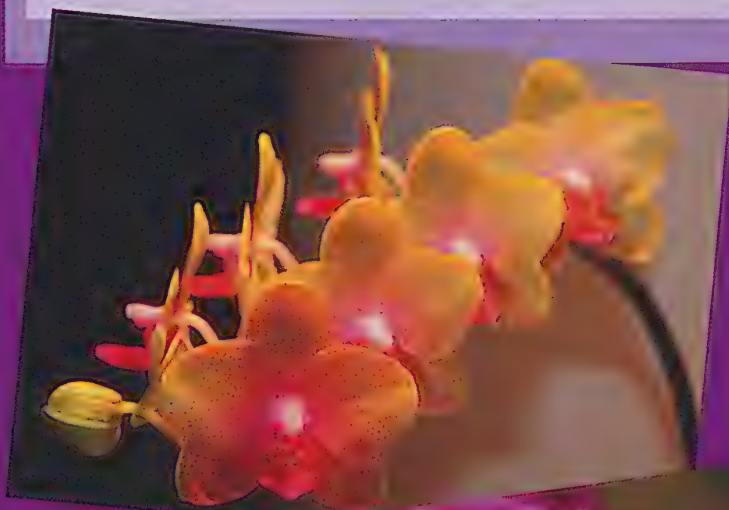
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## FLORA'S ORCHIDS

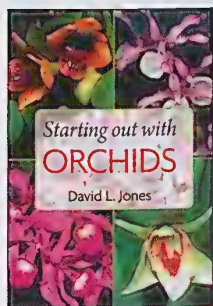
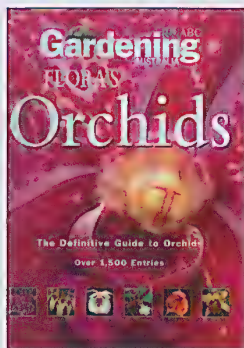
Senior Consultant David P. Banks

Part of the best-selling *Flora* range, this is the definitive guide to orchids with over 1,500 entries. Ranging from the unique to the unusual, the beautiful to the bizarre, orchids have long symbolised beauty, elegance and refinement. *Flora's Orchids* presents more than 1,500 varieties of this highly variable plant family, with entries accompanied by at least 1,300 stunning colour photographs. The orchids are arranged by genus in an A-Z format. Each entry first lists the scientific name in Latin, often accompanied by a Latin synonym and, where appropriate, the translated common name. Plant spread and height are listed, followed by symbols indicating plant type, natural growing locations, growing conditions, frost tolerance, preferred temperatures, type of flower, and preference for pot or mount cultivation. The brief descriptions explain the type of genus, geographic area, and flowering and dormancy seasons. There is a wealth of sound cultural and propagation advice.

AOR Editor David P. Banks was the Senior Consultant for *Flora's Orchids* and is also credited as the Principal Writer. Especially valuable for aspiring botanists and average gardeners is the background information that precedes the dictionary text and explains orchid varieties, taxonomy, hybridisation, history, cultivation, propagation, and more. The history section delves into the fascinating historical development of the plant for culinary and medicinal usage and also explores the use of orchids in folklore and literature. A detailed cultivation table for each of the species is found in the appendix. This work is regarded by many as the logical replacement of *What Orchid Is That?*

**368 pages, colour.**  
**308mm x 238mm.**  
**Hardcover.**

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## STARTING OUT WITH ORCHIDS by David L. Jones

David Jones is arguably one of Australia's most prolific, precise and respected botanical and horticultural authors. The book is divided in two parts. Part One begins with the cultivation chapters, covering Easy Orchids for Beginners, General Cultivation Requirements, Growing Epiphytic Orchids, Growing Terrestrial Orchids, Orchid Pests and Diseases, Housing Your Orchids and Propagating Your Orchids. The information contained within these pages alone is required reading for all beginners through to experienced orchid growers. The text is very easy to read and understand with numerous sound cultivation tips and treatments discussed. There are many excellent and clear line illustrations that help describe terms or highlight diagnostic features. There are over 250 colour photographs.

Part Two discusses the orchids themselves with concise information on each species. They are grouped primarily according to climatic requirements, starting with cool growing orchids progressing to the warm growers, in alphabetical sequence first with terrestrial genera, followed by the epiphytes. Both Australian and exotic species are treated together. For each entry there is specific detailed information on each species, as well as a simple table giving the basic cultivation needs and flowering season. A glossary is also included to explain unfamiliar terms.

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## MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR by Ross Macdonald

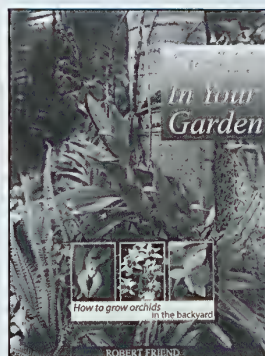
This is the sister volume to *Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year*. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some new material. It would require artificial heating in some areas. This volume covers a further 314 species, with 344 colour photographs. It is recommended to all orchid growers and growers who wish to see an array of beautiful flowers that they could grow.

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## ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

How to grow orchids in  
the backyard  
by Robert Friend

It sounds too good to be true, but orchids are as easy to grow in the backyard as a lawn or a bed of roses. Despite their exotic reputation, the everyday gardener can grow orchids without special pots or greenhouses.

The book shows you how to introduce orchids into the garden, by attaching them to trees, fixing them on rocks and walls, or planting them in garden beds. With more than 150,000 species and hybrids of orchids in the world, there are plants suitable for every garden.

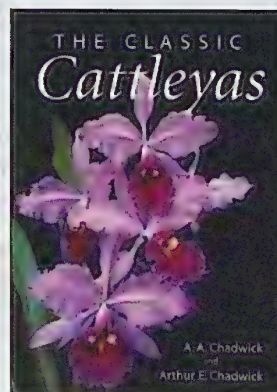
Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

**144 pages.**  
**Colour and B&W.**

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## THE CLASSIC CATTLEYAS by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick

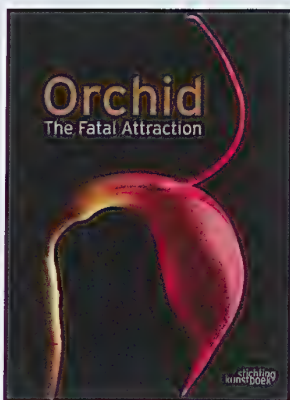
In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the colour of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species (and cattleya-like *Laelia* species) is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. There are ten line drawings and 162 wonderful colour photographs. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.



**252 pages, colour.**  
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## ORCHID: THE FATAL ATTRACTION by Anne Ronse

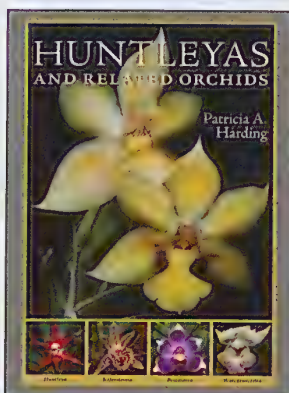
The subject of orchids is one close to the heart of many floral designers. Some feel it's a privilege to work with these flowers and plants but often wonder how many designers actually decide to investigate the history and nature of them rather than just how to condition them. The text by Dr Anne Ronse, is informative and enthusiastic and the photography is superlative! It's so good that the flowers literally drip off the pages capturing the imagination and the heart. If you want something special, are addicted to orchids and want to luxuriate in glorious

text and images; this is the book for you.

**142 pages.**

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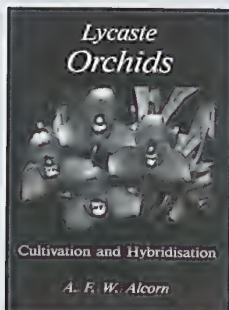
## HUNTLEYS AND RELATED ORCHIDS by Patricia A. Harding

Revered by avid orchid collectors for its delightful, star-shaped flowers, *Huntleya* is a small group of orchids found low in the forest. *Huntleya* is a small orchid genus that includes fourteen species. They occur in wet cloud forests at medium altitudes of Guatemala, Costa Rica, South America down to Bolivia. The type species *Huntleya meleagris* also occurs in Trinidad. Besides their striking colours — from deep blue to waxy red, royal purple to almost black — flowers of this group are known for their distinctive shapes, patterns, and textures. As appealing as these lovely tropical orchids are, their identification has been

confused since the first species was described in the mid-1800s. Recent DNA studies have led to a clearer understanding of relationships and, as a result of this clarity, it is now possible to sort out the taxonomic problems and identify the characteristics that set species apart. In this first book devoted to the *Huntleya* alliance, author Patricia Harding presents evidence from the scientific literature, other growers, and her own experience that will enable orchid enthusiasts everywhere to identify their plants and grow them successfully. Patricia A. Harding is an accredited American Orchid Society judge who has been growing and photographing orchids for three decades.

**260 pages, 150 colour photos. Hardcover.**

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## LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation by A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of

Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

**237 pages.  
Colour and B&W.**

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## GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

by James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

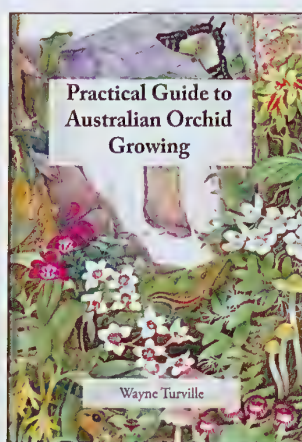
The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

**56 pages.**

**Colour and B&W.**



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## PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ORCHID GROWING

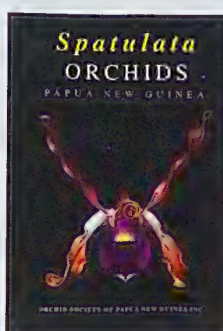
by Wayne Turville

The 64 page *Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing* was over two years in the making, being written by Wayne Turville who runs a large commercial orchid nursery in Victoria, Australia — specialising in Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. This book was written for everybody from the absolute amateur through to the hardened "orchid nut". However, due to its low cost and practical nature, this book fills a huge void in orchid literature. Simple, easy to understand language, lots of pictures, and glorious examples of some of the finest native orchids ever photographed both in nature and at orchid shows.

The title is somewhat misleading, as the text covers major cultivation principles for ALL orchid genera, not just the Australian native *Dendrobium* species and their hybrids. Topics covered (and illustrated) include Blooms, Starting a Collection, Housing Your Orchids, Day to Day Growing, Pests and Diseases, Physical Damage, Cymbidiums and *Sarcocylus*, plus Bits and Pieces (information about orchid propagation, orchid societies and deflasking.). This booklet is recommended for all new orchid enthusiasts, and all who want to brush up on their cultural skills and knowledge.

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## SPATULATA ORCHIDS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

by Justin Tkatchenko and  
Steven Kami (featuring photographs  
by Rocky Roe)

This excellent A4 sized 96 page book is now out of print and we have secured the last few copies for our readers. It is not a scientific publication — but a very professional presentation — published by the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea — showcasing the variety expressed within the native *Spatulata* *Dendrobiums* of Papua New Guinea. Over 100 colour photographs illustrate more than 30 species and colour variations. It also includes a number of newly discovered and currently undescribed species. The book includes distribution maps for each species and a section on cultivation, written by the local experts in their field. A required text for those interested in *Dendrobiums*, Orchids of PNG and tropical orchids

in general. (Note: these copies are shrink-wrapped, and some pages may be stuck together. This can be rectified by either/or bending the pages or the use of a sharp knife to carefully separate the pages. This was accounted for in the reduced price.)

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This example of *Dendrobium nindii* is from the Bensbach River region of Papua New Guinea. This rare species also occurs in North Queensland.  
Photo: © Rocky Roe



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